

## HICKS-BEACH'S WARNING.

## TAXPAYERS AND THE NAVY

OF NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

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SOUTH AFRICAN ANXIETIES AND DIFFICULTIES—  
THE NEW IRISH LAND BILL—A THREATENED

LIBERAL SPLIT—DUELLING IN GER-  
MANY.—THE SPRING EXHIBITIONS.  
[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

London, April 35.—The rumor-mongers cannot reconcile themselves to humdrum conditions; the report that a British army of 10,000 men will be sent to Egypt in the autumn for the reconquest of the Sudan has been revived, but has been promptly contradicted. The amateur campaigners are evidently going too fast, and neither Lord Wolseley nor the Government can keep up with them. South Africa is a more promising field for immediate operations. The situation there is becoming more serious, if it is not yet critical. "The Times" represents the Boers as armed to the teeth and assuming a belligerent attitude. It is so, they are in excellent condition for fighting the Matabels, as they have offered to do, but their aid is not wanted. The suppression of the savage uprising cannot be entrusted to the sharpshooters of a friendly State whose territory was invaded by the Chartered Company's raiders. Sir Hercules Robinson, who prevented the early dispatch of British reinforcements to the Cape from his anxiety to avoid giving offence to President Krüger, has been alarmed by the growing strength of the Matabels and by the weakness of the available white forces for their

It may be several weeks before this concentration of forces can take place. Several journalists have seriously advised the Government to send out Dr. Jameson to South Africa to take charge of the British forces, with the understanding that he will return for trial when the rebellion is suppressed. This expedient would reduce the military policy to the level of a Gilbert and Sullivan burlesque. Mr. Chamberlain, who has evidently been held back by his colleagues, has finally obtained authority for dispatching a battalion of the line and a body of mounted infantry to the Cape. The force is small, but probably the larger one will speedily follow. Sir Hercules Robinson, being a diplomatist, has dreaded the

Mr. Chamberlain is apparently convinced that too much time has been wasted already in futile dalliance with them, while the Matabele are rallying a force of 12,000 men and three

...ning all the garrisons. The troops sent out  
will replace the regulars withdrawn from Natal.  
and Mr. Chamberlain is careful to explain to  
President Kruger, through Sir Hercules Robinson,  
that the reinforcements are designed as  
a permanent increase of the garrison of the Cape  
for the protection of its dockyards and coaling  
stations; but apparently it was hardly necessary  
to offer a diplomatic pretext for strengthening

the British forces in that quarter. The Transvaal itself is making military preparations, and is ordering Maxims, rifles and ammunition on a large scale. The Johannesburg correspondent of "The Times," by a detailed account of the armaments and warlike spirit of the Boers, throws a strong sidelight on the whole situation in South Africa. If President Kruger were

start for London with a definite scheme of political reform in the Transvaal, the garrison of regulars at the Cape would be large enough for all practical purposes, and the colonists with Mr. Cecil Rhodes at their head, would be able to protect Bulawayo, and take care of all the British possessions in that part of the

Meanwhile, there is no sign that the German Emperor's interest in his blood relations, the Boers, is reviving. The sovereigns of Germany have not yet embraced an

parted, and the Triple Alliance has a lease for another term, with England friendly, but isolated. A portion of the German press is still critical and contemptuous respecting England's relations with the Transvaal, but the official journals are more sympathetic in tone. The Sudan manoeuvre, whatever its ulterior purpose,

The Budget speech disclosed at once the magnitude of English prosperity and the helplessness of the taxpayer. With revenues from every source exceeding the estimates, and with the largest surplus ever known, the taxpayers are allowed to stagger along with a beggarly income tax, a large part of this year's

surplus is already disposed of in naval work and the estimated surplus next year would be larger by \$15,000,000 if the new naval program were adopted. What remains is de-

...voted to easing the operation of the death duties, reducing the land tax from four shillings to one, and relieving the agricultural rates. The eight-penny income tax, which is virtually a war tax, still stands. Sir William Harcourt

condemned as a policy of confiscation, is retained with slight changes. The beer tax, which the brewers denounced, remains in force. Taxpayers are not relieved, although the Treasury receipts are the largest ever recorded in England.

the revenues. Ever the fortunate Chancellor of the Exchequer who has fallen heir to Sir William Harcourt's revenue-producing system is inclined to take a serious view of the future when the lean years follow the fat. Meanwhile there are signs of unparalleled prosperity in luxurious living, and there are millions to spare for naval armaments.

because people use more tea, drink more beer and wine and spirits, smoke more tobacco and gamble more on the Stock Exchange. Last year's returns are not, perhaps conclusive on this point.

But apparently the mortality among rich men is not greater in an era of prosperity. The revenue pours into the Treasury, and the surplus is drawn off into the Admiralty, and the rapid payment of the National debt is deprecated as an unprofitable policy. The taxpayer meanwhile wonders what will be the income tax rate when the outbreak of a great war occurs, if eightpence to the pound be the rate in time of peace and prosperity. "Punch" hits off this inquisitive person this week as a donkey bending under a

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's speech was chief-  
remarkable for the seriousness with which he

warned the Commons that the National expenditures were outrunning the National resources. He even went so far as to hint at abandoning the reduction of the National debt, and brought a

Budget speech was really a triumph for Sir William Harcourt, whose system of taxation was so successful that no material departure could

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